

The Red Bank Elementary School Business Mentor Program engages children in learning by connecting them with local mentors affiliated with businesses in the Midlands community. Leaders from Michelin Tire Corporation, Lexington Medical Center, Prysmian Group, Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Garden, and the South Carolina State Museum have impacted close to 150 students over the past three years. By connecting the skills each student learns in the classroom to a professional environment, these bright children are given the opportunity to chase their dreams.

As a member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, I am encouraged by the opportunities these young students are able to enjoy and appreciate the business mentors for contributing to their future.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENSACOLA NEWS JOURNAL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 125th anniversary of the Pensacola News Journal. During its incredible 125 year history, the News Journal has been an invaluable resource for the people of Pensacola and Northwest Florida, and we are proud to have such a first-class newspaper in our community.

In 1889, two local newspapermen, John O'Connor and John C. Witt, gathered support from the local business community to start a daily morning paper. The paper, originally known as the Daily News, was first published on March 5, 1889, with a staff of ten people working to write and produce the paper in downtown Pensacola. The newly created paper quickly began to flourish and within a decade had a daily circulation of more than 1,500. Thanks to the success of the Daily News, a rival paper, the Pensacola Journal was started by M. Loftin in March 1897. The following year, the Pensacola Journal became a daily and began directly competing with the Daily News through publication of a highly regarded afternoon daily.

For more than two decades, these two competing papers fought to expand their reach in the growing Pensacola community. While this fierce competition raised the quality of both papers, it also required constant innovation and expansion, leaving them both in precarious financial shape. In 1922, John H. Perry, a Kentucky native, arrived in Pensacola and decided to purchase the Pensacola Journal. Two years later, he purchased the Daily News and merged the two publications to under the News-Journal Company umbrella.

With the reporting resources of both papers now working together and the business acumen of the News-Journal Company leadership, the two papers began an era of unbridled growth and expansion. The News-Journal Company moved to a new larger location in downtown Pensacola; however, because of the meteoric growth of the papers, they quickly outgrew this location and began plans for further development. In order to meet the needs of this growing company, the News-Journal Company funded the creation of an

entirely new street in downtown Pensacola, which was given to the City of Pensacola at no cost to the taxpayer.

With the space available in its new location, the News-Journal Company constructed one of the most modern and advanced newspaper structures in the Southeast. The company's meteoric growth continued throughout the 1950s when it added a new pressroom and brand new state-of-the-art three-unit Goss Headliner Press. By the end of the decade, the paper required even more room to operate its growing enterprise, and by 1960 the News-Journal company headquarters had more than doubled in space and added two additional press units.

Thanks to the two papers' well-earned reputation for quality journalism, the first-rate publication infrastructure, and robust circulations, the News-Journal Company was acquired by the Nation's largest newspaper publisher, Gannett Company, Inc., in 1969 for \$15.5 million. Six years after the purchase, the News-Journal building underwent another renovation, highlighted by the construction of a new plant that was on the cutting edge of newspaper technology.

After operating under the same roof for more than six decades, the Pensacola Daily News and the Pensacola Journal were combined in 1985, to create one morning newspaper called the News Journal. The News Journal carried on the proud traditions of both long-time Pensacola institutions and continued its commitment to meeting the needs of the expanding Northwest Florida community. A new Goss Headliner offset press was installed to enhance the quality of their printing operation, and the paper won several national newspaper awards for investigative reporting and environmental coverage.

In 2004, the News Journal expanded into the digital age during coverage of the devastating Hurricane Ivan. Despite the catastrophic impact of the storm, which caused nearly \$20 billion in economic damages, the News Journal was able to use its generator and one working phone line to transmit photographs and news coverage of the storm to a sister paper to post on the News Journal's website. During this difficult time, the News Journal relayed stories to millions across the world, aid their outstanding coverage earned the newspaper a Pulitzer Prize finalist nomination, the second in the paper's history.

Pensacola's proud newspaper tradition continues today as the Pensacola News Journal celebrates its 125th anniversary. The News Journal continues to provide excellent coverage to more than 31,000 daily and 47,000 Sunday subscribers. In addition, the paper's website, pnj.com, provides constant news to more than 500,000 visitors, logging more than 4.3 million page views per month. The News Journal's tradition of evolving to meet the needs of the community will continue this summer when the company moves into a new digital facility that will help the paper continue to provide the quality reporting that local residents have grown to trust.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the 125th anniversary of the Pensacola News Journal. Freedom of the Press, as guaranteed by the First Amendment, is one of the cornerstones of our Nation's democracy, and it has helped pave the way for American success and innovation. The Pensacola News Journal

is a shining example of the kind of world-class newspaper envisioned by our Founding Fathers. They have enriched Northwest Florida for 125 years, and my wife Vicki and I send our congratulations to all the staff of the News Journal, both current and former, and wish them continued success in the future.

HONORING MIDFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AS ALABAMA'S CLASS 3A BOY'S STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Midfield High School Patriots for their victory in the 2014 Class 3A Alabama State Basketball Championship. On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, I congratulate the Patriots for the tremendous athleticism and teamwork they displayed throughout the season under the outstanding leadership of Head Coach Darrell Barber and his coaching staff. Midfield High School won its second state championship in three years with its victory over Barbour County on Saturday, March 1. These young men and their coaches pursued excellence and were driven by hard work and determination during every game of the season. The Patriots finished the season undefeated in their region and lost only 7 games overall.

As the daughter of a high school basketball coach, I know this decisive victory is the result of the tremendous efforts of both the players and coaching staff of Midfield High School. Coach Barber is known for setting high expectations for his players and assisting them in meeting those expectations. The exemplary leadership and dedicated support from the coaching staff was a major factor in the success of the Midfield Patriots.

In the championship game, the Midfield Patriots defeated Barbour County by 22 points for a final score of 62-40. The Patriots forced 11 turnovers, but only gave up the ball seven times.

In the second half, the Midfield Patriots led by as many as 25 points and never less than 13 points. During the entire fourth quarter, the Patriots never led by less than 20 points. Tournament MVP Aaron Gaines scored 22 points with four 3-pointers. Alvin Murry completed the game with 15 points and 10 rebounds. Jermaine Turner scored 11 points and made eight assists and seven rebounds.

Following the victory, Head Coach Darrell Barber thanked God, his family and the Midfield community for supporting the Patriots throughout the season. He explained how the nay-sayers gave the team motivation making them more dedicated to win. "It gave us a little fuel," he told Al.com following the victory. "As you all know myself and my guys, we play with a chip on our shoulder and we coach with a chip on our shoulder to get this program recognition."

Winning the state championship is a proud moment these boys achieved through hard work and commitment. Members of the team include: Eric Billups, Kelvin Eatmon, Aaron Gaines, Ahmad Isaac, Derrick Morse, Jabril Muhammad, Alvin Murry, Joseph Murry, Jeremy Shields, Jermaine Turner, and Cedric Russell.